

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06675 071637Z

55

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02

/082 W

----- 041549

O 071529Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7341

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

USMISSION UN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 6675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, BE, US

SUBJECT: EC-9 DEMARCHE ON ANGOLAN MERCENARIES

REF: (A) ROME 10866; (B) THE HAGUE 3623; (C) LONDON 10372;

(D) BRUSSELS 6548

1. SUMMARY: IN ABSENCE OF ANGOLAN SENIOR OFFICIALS, BELGIAN CHIEF OF MISSION IN LUANDA (DE ROBIANO) MADE JOINT EC-9 DEMARCHE ON MERCENARIES ORALLY TO PRIVATE SECRETARY OF PRESIDENT NETO ON JULY 2 AND LEFT "PRIVATE LETTER" CONTAINING KEY ELEMENTS OF DEMARCHE AT ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTRY JULY 3. DE ROBIANO REPORTED NO ANGOLAN REACTION AS YET. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06675 071637Z

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AFRICAN DESK OFFICER (VERKAMMEN) TOLD US THAT AS RESULT OF EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS' DECISION, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVIGNON SENT TELEGRAM TO BELGIAN CHIEF OF MISSION IN LUANDA (DE ROBIANO) INSTRUCTING HIM TO CONFER WITH NEWLY ARRIVED ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AND BETWEEN THEM DECIDE WHETHER TO GO AHEAD AND MAKE JOINT EC-9 DEMARCHE TO ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT URGING CLEMENCY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS FOR ALL FOUR MERCENARIES SENTENCED TO DEATH. DE ROBIANO AND ITALIAN COLLEAGUE DETERMINED TO GO AHEAD WITH APPROACH AND DE ROBIANO WAS SELECTED TO MAKE THE ACTUAL DEMARCHE. ALL SENIOR ANGOLAN OFFICIALS WERE EITHER AT OAU MEETING AT PORT LOUIS OR OTHERWISE UNAVAILABLE. BECAUSE OF RUMORS IN LUANDA THAT CONVICTED MERCENARIES WERE TO BE EXECUTED JULY 3, DE ROBIANO MET JULY 2 WITH MOST SENIOR ANGOLAN OFFICIAL HE COULD FIND, ISMAEL MARTINS, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT NETO, AND MADE EC-9 DEMARCHE ORALLY. MARTINS' ONLY RESPONSE WAS THE PROMISE TO FORWARD DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT NETO AT OAU PARLEY. MARTINS REQUESTED DE ROBIANO TO "CONFIRM" IN WRITING ELEMENTS OF EC-9 DEMARCHE TO SECRETARY GENERAL ALMEIDA OF FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. VERKAMMEN SAID DAVIGNON DID NOT LIEK IDEA OF COMMITTING DEMARCHE TO WRITING BUT AGAIN ALLOWED DE ROBIANO LEEWAY TO MAKE DECISION. DE ROBIANO JUSTIFIED WRITTEN RECORD OF DEMARCHE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. ANGOLAN FOREIGN OFFICE ALWAYS DEMANDS PRICE OF PAPER, AND

B. BECAUSE OF RIVALRY BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GIVE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOMETHING. DE ROBIANO DRAFTED WHAT VERKAMMEN CALLED A "PRIVATE, PERSONAL LETTER" FROM DE ROBIANO TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL ALMEIDA CONTAINING ALL ELEMENTS OF ORAL DEMARCHE MADE TO MARTINS. SINCE ALMEIDA WAS STILL UNAVAILABLE ON SATURDAY, JULY 3, DE ROBIANO LEFT LETTER THAT DAY AT MINISTRY IN ENVELOPE MARKED FOR ALMEIDA. VERKAMMEN WILL INFORM US WHEN DE ROBIANO REPORTS ANY OFFICIAL ANGOLAN REACTION TO DEMARCHE.

4. VERKAMMEN SAID FOLLOWING ELEMENTS CONSTITUTED EC-9 DEMARCHE AND CONTAINED IN DE ROBIANO LETTER TO ALMEIDA:

A. NINE EXPRESSED "HOPE" THAT DEATH SENTENCES OF ALL FOUR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 06675 071637Z

MERCENARIES WOULD BE COMMUTED "FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS ONLY."

B. NINE "INSISTED FORMALLY ON THE FACT" THAT THE JOINT DEMARCHE COULD IN NO WAY BE CONSIDERED A COMMENT ON THE "WAY THE TRIAL WAS CONDUCTED."

C. NINE'S DEMARCHE COULD IN NO WAY BE CONSIDERED A REFLECTION OF ITS VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF MERCENARIES.

5. VERKAMMEN SAID THAT DE ROBIANO WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES OF SUCCESS OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO HAVE DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED. DE ROBIANO VIEWED PRESIDENT NETO AS BEING UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM ARMY TO PROCEED WITH EXECUTIONS.  
FIRESTONE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, MERCENARIES, COURT DECISIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BRUSSE06675  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760261-0986  
**From:** BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760785/aaaacwvg.tel  
**Line Count:** 120  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 ROME 10866, 76 THE HAGUE 3623, 76 LONDON 10372  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 31 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EC-9 DEMARCHE ON ANGOLAN MERCENARIES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AO, BE, US, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006